



# Oppian's CYNEGETICKS.

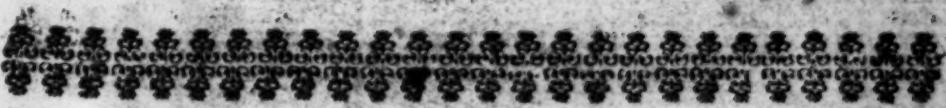


Translated into *English* Verse.



To which is added,

A Poem on Her *Majesty's*  
Birth-Day.







1960-1961  
V. B. A.

OPPIAN presents his Poems to the EMPEROR



Tοι γαρ εγών ἔργανα θήρας πλεῖστα δινέ καίσαρα.

— And proud to bring  
To Thee my Verse, the Arts of Chace I sing.

J. Haynes D. et Sc.

CYN.B.I.V. 18

# OPPIAN'S CYNEGETICKS.

Translated into ENGLISH Verse.

*Duc age, diva, tuum frondosa per avia vatem.  
Te sequimur: tu pande domos & lustra ferarum.  
Huc igitur mecum quisquis percussus amore  
Venandi, damnas lites, avidosque tumultus,  
Civilesque fugis strepitus, —*

NEMESIAN.

*Suppeditant autem et campus noster, et studia  
Venandi, honesta exempla ludendi.*

CIC. de Officiis.

*Instar refectionis existimas mutationem laboris, — lustrare  
Saltus, excutere cubilibus feras, — atque inter huc  
Pia mente adire lucos, et occurfare numinibus.*

PLIN. Panegyr. ad TRAJAN.



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THE  
FIRST BOOK  
O F

Oppian's Cynegeticks.





## The ARGUMENT of the FIRST BOOK.

THE Introduction and Address. The Muse's Interlocution and Instructions. A Prayer for the Emperor's Favour. The different Games, of Hunting, Fishing, and Fowling. Instructions for the Chace, and what Instruments necessary. The proper Seasons for it. Horses preferable to Mares. The War-Horse. An admirable Description of the Horse. A Tale. The different Strains of Horses, and what Countries famous therein. What Countries produce the swiftest. What Kinds proper to attack particular wild Beasts in a Chace. The Nissæan, the finest made of all, and the Pad of Kings. Manner of embroidering Horses. Of beautifying them with Devices before they are foaled. A curious Method how to have pink'd and sanded Pidgeons. Transition to the Spartan's Management how to have pretty Children. Description of the various Kinds of Hounds. Proper Season to match them. Directions for raising a Breed. Description of the best Shape. What Sorts best for Chace. Care in educating them. Proper Names. Two Ways of tracing the Game. What Season and Grounds pernicious to the Scent. Description of the AGASSEES, a British Race of the most excellent Hounds.

N. P. The whole Poem abounds in most curious and entertaining Descriptions; and no Book more curious than the Second, which is ready for the Press.



T H E



THE  
FIRST BOOK  
OF  
Oppian's Cynegeticks.

TO Thee, Auspicious Prince ! I sing these Lays,  
Great *Antonine* ! Earth's Guardian and the Grace :  
Refulgent Chief of *Troy*'s fam'd warlike Line,  
*Ausonian Jove*'s lov'd Progeny divine !

VER. 1. For the Propriety of the Epithet *μάκαρ* *Blest*, or Fortunate, the Reader may see *Bodin's Note* from *Spartian*, the Southsayers having foretold his Advancement to the Imperial Dignity.

VER. 2. *Troy's fam'd.*] The Roman Emperors and Nobility piqued themselves upon the Notion of being descended from *Æneas* and the *Trojans* ; hence the Poets frequently complimented them with the Title of *Æneades*, or something like it.

## 2 OPPIAN'S BOOK I.

Severus' Offspring by th' Imperial Fair, 5  
Blest in her Love, and happy in her Heir ;  
(Bride nobly-pair'd, of Mothers match'd by none,  
Th' *Affyrian Venus*, and un-waining Moon !)  
Nothing beneath *Saturnian Jove*'s high Race,  
(Hear, ye \*bright Powers ! and with your wonted Grace.)  
Whom

VER. 5. *Th' Imperial Fair.*] It is controverted whether *Domna* here in the Text should be taken for an Epithet, or the Empress's proper Name. *Ritterbusius* supports the former very well ; notwithstanding, I am clearly of the latter Opinion, with *Andr. Schottus* in his Observations on ancient Authors : for this *Julia Domna* is a Name that antient Medals and Historians give their Testimony for. According to the former Opinion, *Domna* is ~~only~~ an Adjunct of Honour, importing the same as when we say *Her Highness*, *Her Majesty*, or the like ; which indeed is the Purport of the Latin Word, taken in its relative Capacity. But what binders its being assumed out of its State of Dependency into a proper Name by its own Right ? Like the Masculine *Domnu*, a Derivative of the same Kind. Be it as it will, to have render'd it according to its first Acceptation would not justly represent the more simple *Manner* of those Times, which it is necessary to preserve in Translations of this Nature. I have therefore express'd it, so as to comprehend both Opinions ; yet can't help thinking, that to have used *Domna* or *Julia* in the Verse would have better express'd the Simplicity and Energy of antient Times : for the bare Name of the Empress carries more Emphasis than that frigid Phrase and distant Respect of Modern Civility. And thus I at first render'd it :

*To' August Severus whom high Domna bare.*

VER. 8. *Th' Affyrian Venus.*] *Affyria* and *Syria* are Names frequently confounded by the Ancients. The *Syrian Goddess* is well known, and the Poet's Compliment is strong and very apposite, as likewise the following Title of the *Moon* or *Diana*, who was Goddess of the Groves, and Patroness of Hunting, and who joins with *Calliope* in her Instructions to the Poet.

\* *Phaeton* and *Phœbus*.

# BOOK I. CYNEGETICKS. 3

Whom in his Might thy Father did install  
In Sway, and gave to rule the subject Ball.  
To Thee Earth's teeming Lap her Produce pours,  
For Thee the Morn sends round the smiling Hours ;  
The Regions of the Deep their Stores afford, 15  
And all their finny Dainties deck thy Board ;  
For Thee the Rivers flow : And proud to bring  
To Thee my Verse, the Arts of Chace I sing.

*Calliope* and *Dian* urge the Song,  
I own the Pow'rs, nor must the Motion wrong. 20  
Th' Impulse I answer'd ; when the Goddess spake :  
Prepare, a yet-unbeaten Track to take,  
Which never Poet yet has trod in Verse.  
Aid me, blest Pow'r ! thy Dictates to rehearse ;  
As You inspire, may we attune our Lays. 25  
But not to *Bacchus'* Revels or his Praise ;  
Nor the mad Quires near lewd *Æsopus'* Stream.  
No, *Bacchus'* Rites shall not employ our Theam.  
Against his nightly Gambols we've declar'd ;  
We, who have oft the sportful Orgies shar'd. 30  
Nor

VER. 11. *Whom in his Might.*] *Severus* had associated him with himself into a Partnership of the Empire ; and the Poet seems to insinuate the mighty Struggle *Severus* had with his Competitors and Opponents to obtain the Empire, and secure it to his Descendants. Some are of Opinion, that *Severus* was still living, when this Poem was address'd to *Caracalla* ; and therefore I have endeavour'd to take in as large a Sense as the Original wou'd support. The Latin Translation, and even *Bodin*'s in Verse, seems to give a wrong Idea of the Poet's Meaning ; at least their Idea is much lower, and of less Effect.

## 4     *O P P I A N*'s Book I.

Nor sing of Heroes, nor of *Argo* sing,  
No mortal Broils, nor Slaughter-loving King :  
Rude Wars and *Mars*'s hostile Deeds begone,  
We know the *Parthians* Rage, and *Ctesiphon*.  
Peace with destructive Labours ; clear the Scene 35  
Of Loves ; no Favour for the Sea-born Queen :  
I hate her Sports. Cœlestial Maid ! I hear.  
But sing of Hunters, and the Chace ; declare  
The grappling Toils of Beasts ; recite the Breeds  
Of Hounds, and various Families of Steeds. 40  
The witty Wiles of ready Thought impart,  
Their Scent-taught Manners, and Way-guiding Art ;  
The Bestial Broods Aversions and their Loves,  
Their nuptial Pleasures in the Mountain-Groves ;  
Their Child-Births free from Midwifry and Throes, 45  
Like those soft Unions whence *Jove*'s Daughter rose.

I've heard th' Instruction, and the Song prepare,  
But in Provision must premise a Prayer.  
“ Thou that from Eastward rul'ft the Ocean's Flood,  
“ And from *Ambrosial* Eye-Brows look'ft a God, 50  
“ Serene, thy all-sustaining Hand hold forth,  
“ Wealth-giving Source to this wide Round of Earth,

“ And

V.R.R. 34. *We know.*] The Original seems rather to import,  
*I've sung*, &c. But I believe there are no Traces left of any such  
Poems as that Reading would intimate.

V.R.R. 37. *Cœlestial Maid.*] I have not translated the whole  
Line ; but the Sense and Turn I conceive are as good, letting the  
rest alone.

# BOOK I. CYNEGETICKS. 5

“ And in thy Bounty’s general Flow, diffuse

“ Some Stream of Grace upon the Hunting-Muse.”

Three Sorts of Chace we owe to bounteous Heav’n,<sup>55</sup>

In Air, in Earth, and in the Water giv’n ;

Yet not alike their Genius : for who’d call

The same, a twirling Fish from Deep to haul,

And making flutt’ring Birds in Air strike Sails,

Or lancing Beasts of Prey along the Dales ? <sup>60</sup>

Yet nor the Fisher’s nor the Fowler’s Game

Is void of Toil : — so much as Pleasures claim.

But yet *these* Games require no great Effort,  
A bloodless Pastime, and innoxious Sport :

As when his swimming Prey the Fisher waits, <sup>65</sup>

With quivering Reeds, and Hook-disguising Baits,

And having struck the barbed Brafs with Care,

The finny Flouncher heaves aloft in Air.

Delightful too the Fowler’s Toil : A Sport,  
Which Sword nor Faulchion nor the Spear support ; <sup>70</sup>  
But with a comrade Hawk they seek the Wood,  
With ready Shafts that pierce their airy Road,  
Long Lines and Sprigs with clinging Bane beglu’d.

But

VER. 57. *Yet not alike, &c.*] The Original here seems perplex’d with some Inconsistencies. A learned Friend communicated to me his Conjectures of clearing up the whole Passage relating to the three Sorts of Game ; which I approve of, but retain my former Translation, which I believe sufficiently clear, the Author’s Sense as to the Disparity of the three Sorts of Chace he would describe.

## 6 OPPIAN'S BOOK I.

But who makes these an equal Warfare wage ?  
The Eagle with a Lion who'd engage ? } 75  
Or match a Lamprey with a Tyger's Rage ?  
Shall Hawks be made the Mountain-Pard assail,  
The fell Rhinoceros the Hedgehog's Mail,  
Wild-Goats the Sea-Mews, Elephant the Whale ?  
To Hunters Wolves, Tunny's the Fisher's Part, 80  
Rams fall by Rangers, Ringdoves by the Dart ;  
A Bear the Chacer, Spearmen launce the Pikes,  
Horsemen the Tyger, th' Angler Barbels strikes ;  
The Tracers seize the Boars, the Nightingales  
The Fowler with his viscous Wiles assails. 85

But *Nereus*, and ye Daughters of the Flood,  
And Bird-befriending *Dryads* of the Wood,  
Hear annuent ; whilst the Song inclines your Way ;  
But the Hunting-Powers of Right demand my Lay.

First, for my Sport let spare, light Youths be found, 90  
Fit to impel the Courser o'er the Mound,  
Unfoil'd to leap the Ditch, and scour the Mountain-  
[Ground.]

And as the Chace oft thro' the Thicket leads,  
Light Limbs shou'd press the unincumber'd Steeds.  
Then let not bulky Bodies seek the Game, 95  
Nor yet more slender than the Labours claim :  
For various Feats divide the Sylvan War,  
Then Force for Fight and Speed of Foot prepare.  
Be the Right-hand with practis'd Darts supply'd ;  
Long, double-barb'd ; a Faulchion arm your Side ; 100  
For

# BOOK I. CYNEGETICKS. 7

For useful these to hold the Beasts at Bay,  
Or drive th' assaulting Savages away.

The Footman's Left shou'd lead the Hounds to Field,  
The Courser's Conduct let the Horseman's wield.

Closet tuckt the Coat above the Knee be brac'd 105

With correspondent Straps, and tightly lac'd.

To give the Arms full Play, on either Side  
Contract the Surcoat, o'er the Shoulders ty'd,  
Easiest for Toil. And barefoot they shou'd go,  
Whose Care's the nicer Tracks of Beasts to know, 110  
Left with the clatt'ring of their cloggy Shoes  
The sleeping Game they from their Lodges rouze.

But better far no Cloak, or looser Vest ;  
For as the rustling Breezes they arrest,  
Their Wavings oft have scar'd the Game to fly ; 115  
With closer Cloaths hence active Sportsmen ply.  
Such for the Quiver'd Goddess of the Groves.—

Now different Hours the Sylvan Sport approves ;  
At Morning, Noon, or at declining Light,  
At Ev'ning's Close, or in the Shades of Night ; 120  
And by the Lunar Rays some Sportsmen speed.  
But Morning's aptest for the Game agreed ;  
Serene, full Scope it gives the Day-long Chace,  
In Leafy Spring, and Leaf-shed Autumn's Days.  
Best for the Chace the temper'd Seasons, then 125  
The Sport both favours Dogs, and Steeds, and Men ;  
In Golden Spring, the Chaser of the Clouds,  
When for the Seas the Mariner new shrowds,

B

And

And trims his Bark: When th' all-sustaining Ground,  
( Earnest of Fruit,) her Bosom has unbound,  
And glads with op'ning Buds, and blossoms all around.  
Or when revolv'd, th' Autumnal Seasons come,  
And teem the Plowman's Stores, his Harvest Home ;  
When the rich Olives bending Baskets bear,  
And the trod Grapes th' o'erflowing Presses shear ; 135  
When Hives too yield the Honey of the Year.

But in Mid-Winter seek the Game at Noon,  
When in some Cave the Forest-faring Clown  
By his Leaf-foster'd Fire at Ease reclines,  
A ready Flame, and spreads his Meal, and dines. 140

But Summer bids us fly the Force of Fire,  
And Solar Rage. E'er Morning Shades retire,  
I warn you then a-field ; when to the Beam  
The early Hind compels his horned Team,  
And guides the griding Plough along the Land, 145  
With the smooth Steerage fitted to his Hand.  
And when at Night *Sol* bids the Team unyoke,  
When back from Pasture Shepherds wave their Flock,  
Which to their Stands march gravely up, and flow  
With loaden Udders, whence full Torrents flow : 150  
While from their Folds leap forth the crowding Young,  
To meet the Dam's Embrace, and frisk along :  
Round fair-ey'd Heifers Calves that fullent glout,  
By suckling Ewes their Lambkins bleat about ;

Here

VER. 145. These two Lines seem redundant ; but are done in  
Compliance with the Original.

# BOOK I. CYNEGETICKS. 9

Here squealing Kids, and there the Courser's Breed. 155

And let this Tackling, as your Sport must speed  
Be brought a-field; such Arms the Chace will need,  
For slaught'ring Arts: the Drag whence nought escapes,  
Nets, Hays, and Withies, and the Snare that snaps,  
Of Hold tenacious, Stakes for Nets to hedge, 160  
A fork Spear, a Bill of double Edge,  
Clubs, Grapples, Shafts for Flight all fit to fledge:  
Pikes, Hatchets, and Hare-Spears of treble Stroke,  
Maces lead-poiz'd, and the far-reaching Crook,  
Close-running Braces, nexile Lines well-knit, 165  
Net-Poles, and meshy Weels for Captures fit.

Let mettled Horses to the Chace be brought,  
Not Mares: for they're inferior found of Foot,  
O'er toilsome Lawns to stretch the lengthen'd Course;  
And you'll with Pain hold in their Rage of Horse. 170  
Whence Caution still the Females thence removes,  
Lest on the Fret, and neighing out their Loves,  
Their noisy Passion put the Fawns to Flight,  
Swift Roes, and Hares by Nature chill'd to Fright.

Various the Tribes of Horse, The Brutal Strains 175  
Are numerous as those whom Bread sustains.  
And now their noblest Families I'll tell,  
And which of all the Courser-kind excell.  
The Tyrrhene, Cretan, and Sicelian Breed,  
Th' Achaian, Massic, Cappadocian Steed, 180  
Thessalian, Scythian, Moor, Magnesian Race,  
Armenian, Lybian, and the Line of Thrace,

# 10      O P P I A N ' S      B O O K I .

Th' *Ionian*, and *Arabian* Horse. But best,  
The Horse, whom Jockeys prize above the rest,  
Is he, whose Shape's with these Perfections crown'd : 185  
Light let him shift his Limbs, and rid the Ground.  
Above his Neck his Head should something rise,  
With Looks erect ; nor little be his Size.  
His Chin should to his Neck below incline,  
And his large Front with sprightly Vigour shine. 190  
Let waving Locks a-down his Foretop fly ;  
And Brills imbrown'd should edge his broad-bright Eye.  
Wide nostrils, ample Mouth, and little Ears :  
Arch'd be his Neck, and fledg'd with floating Hairs,  
Like a plum'd Helmet when it nods its Crest : 195  
Broad-back'd, long-body'd, spacious be his Chest.

Let

VER. 184. *The Horse, whom Jockeys prize above the rest.]*  
The several ancient Authors, who have written on this Subject,  
have given their particular Description of a fine Horse : Out of  
which it may be worth while to select that of *Columella*, for the  
Entertainment of such as are curious this Way.

” As for the Make of the Horse, (*says he*) let him have a little  
” Head, black Eyes, wide nostrils, short and prickt Ears, a supple  
” Neck ; broad, but not long ; a thick Mane, flowing down on the  
” right Side, a broad Breast, large Shoulders, Sides sloping in-  
” wards, a double Chine, a tight Belly, even and small Testicles ;  
” broad Fillets, and furrow'd ; a long Tail, and well-hair'd ;  
” streight Shanks, and of a good Height ; a smooth well-turn'd  
” Knee, and small, but no way inward-cast ; fleshy Buttocks,  
” round Thighs, hard Hocfs, and high, with Knees round and  
” even : Let his whole Body have the Port and Air of Gran-  
” deur, an erect and lofty Look, and an Agility that appears in  
” his Mein, and as far as the Nature of his Shape will admit  
” with its Length let it be round and well turn'd.

## BOOK I. CYNEGETICKS. II

Let his plump Back be furrow'd with his Chine,  
And run his Tail out in a bushy Line.  
Clean be his Thighs, and sinewy ; but below,  
Strait, long, and spare, the well-turn'd Shank shou'd show.  
Lean be his Legs, and nimble as the Stag's,  
With whom in Speed the sweeping Tempest flags.  
Firm let him tread, and just, marching along  
Upon a well-grown, solid Hoof, and strong.  
Such be the Horse to bear me to the Field, 205  
That shares the Sport, with Fire and Pride impell'd.  
Th' *Achaian* such, th' *Armenian*, *Tyrrhene* Steed,  
And *Cappadocians*, which by *Taurus* feed.

What's strange I've seen, this *Cappadocian* Kind,  
Their Colt's-Tooth not yet cast, nor Milk resign'd, 210  
At first are flaggy, and no Mettle show ;  
But still grow fleeter, older as they grow.  
These harness for the fierce Fatigues of Fight,  
And kindled Rage of Beasts : for most their Might,  
Boldly to face and break th' embattled Host, 215  
And in the Sylvan Wars sustain the most.

See, with what Joy the War-Horse hears the Sound  
Of shrilling Trumpets rouzing War around !  
True to his Rank, he fearless meets the Glare  
Of flashing Arms, and dreadful Blaze of War : 220  
He hears the Word ; will ev'ry Rule obey,  
Knows when to urge the Onset, when to stay.  
And oft to storm a Tow'r he moves along,  
Beneath a Shed of Shields compacted strong,

With

12 *O P P I A N's* Book I.

With order'd Pace ; the Warriors in their Skreen, 225  
Secure, attempt the Town they wish to win.  
A Plain of Shields of Sev'n Bull-Hides compos'd,  
Rear'd high, by thick Brads Bosses firmly clos'd,  
Half-meets and dashes back the Solar Beams,  
While doubly fierce the Blaze reverted gleams. 230

But wond'rous Nature does to Steeds impart  
A soften'd Sense, and more impassion'd Heart.  
They see, they know their Master with Delight,  
Neighing with *Love*, they hail their Warrior Knight;  
And mourn a lost Companion in the Fight. 235  
The Horse in Fight has spoke in Human Sounds,  
Broke Nature's Bands, and over-leap'd her Bounds.  
The *Macedonian* Monarch's martial Horse,  
*Bucephalus*, arm'd Hosts oppos'd wou'd force.  
The Horse o'er Corn unbent has ply'd his Feet, 240  
And o'er the Waves, yet scarce his Hoofs were wet.  
Another neighing, with his Groom to guide,  
Rais'd *Perisia*'s Monarch to his Kingly Pride.  
*Perseus*, thus mounted, o'er the Clouds cou'd ride. 245

And, hard to Faith ! they Nature so regard,  
To shun all Ways of Love which she has barr'd,  
Nor will be forc'd polluted Lust to prove,  
So fine their Sense of pure permitted Love.  
A wealthy Lord, of generous Steeds once bred  
A noble Race, in verdant Pastures fed : 250  
At length a Murrain swept away the Whole,  
Save only two, a Mother and her Fole.

This

# BOOK I. CYNEGETICKS. 13

This grown adult, he wickedly essays  
To make the Dam admit her Son's Embrace.  
Whom finding to refuse such lawless Love, 255  
With dire Device a Stratagem he'd prove,  
In hope his Breed of Racers to restore,  
With other Skins he cloaths their Bodies o'er,  
And smears with fragrant Oyls of Pander Pow'r.  
Did he effect, ye Pow'rs ! the Sin design'd ? 265  
— He did, in Nature's Spite.— The Racer-kind  
Abhor all Incest. Such the Bed of old  
That with such Woes did *OEdipus* infold.  
But these, unmask'd, the hateful Deed descry'd,  
And louting with Amaze, each other ey'd. 265  
She glouts her Son,— Son cancell'd by his Deed ;  
His Mother he, unmother'd by her Seed,  
Sad, direful Deed ! that Names and Things confounds.  
Strait, fierce with Rage that swells too big for Bounds,  
They fling about, break off, neigh mad along, 270  
As if they call'd the Gods t' attest the Wrong,  
Cursing their rueful Coupler. When some Time  
They've wail'd Heav'n's Wrath, and full mourn'd out  
[ their Crime ;  
Then headlong to a Rock they rush out-right,  
Crush Head and Bones, and thus get rid of Light, 275  
Self-slain, reclining each to each the Head.  
And thus old Fame does Honour to the Steed.  
Of all the Breeds the roomy Earth sustains,  
Swiftest the Natives of *Sicelian* Plains,

Near

14 OPPIAN'S BOOK I.

Near *Lilybæum*, and which graze the Meads 280  
 Where flaming *Ætna* rears three pointed Heads ;  
 The Load of huge *Enceladus*, who flung  
 At *Jove* his Lightning, hence these Burnings sprung,  
 Whose Torrent Vengeance ever must prolong. 285  
 Than these still swifter drink *Euphrates'* Flood,  
 Th' *Armenian*, deep-mane'd *Parthian* ; and that Brood  
 Still by th' *Iberian* far excell'd, amain  
 With plying Feet to scour the sounding Plain.  
 Perhaps the Eagle only these may mate,  
 Shooting at Speed along her airy State : 290  
 Or Hawk, that with extended Pinions glides ;  
 Or Dolphin sliding thro' the hoary Tides.  
 So swift th' *Iberian* in their airy Flight ;  
 But small, are flat, nor of true-mettled Might :  
 Foil'd in few Lengths, they'll restive fly the Chace, 295  
 But finest Shapes their well-made Bodies grace.  
 Yet fragil is their broad, \* *Turf-turning* Hoof.

But far the various *Moors* excell for Proof,  
 In Length of Course, and Toils that ask for Strength ;  
 And next the *Libyans* for a Race of Length. 300  
 Alike their Kinds ; but larger and more strong  
 The *Libyans* look, in Flank and Body long.

The

\* The Original is *πηλότροφον* *soil-fed*, which cou'd not be preserv'd with any Grace in the Translation, whence we have turn'd it into *πηλοτρόφον* ; not as condemning the Propriety of the other Reading, but thinking this as well countenanc'd by the following Epithet, *ευρυπέδιλον* *broad-shoe'd*.

## BOOK I. CYNEGETICKS. 15

The others Sides well-knit and short, they show  
More plump, and forceful on th' Assault to go.  
Well too the Sun's rude Fervours they sustain, 305  
And knawing Thirst on *Africk's* parching Plain.  
The *Tyrrbene* Horse, and *Creet's* unnumber'd Breed  
Are both long-made, and rapid in their Speed.  
Swifter than *Moors Sicelians* are, and last  
These by the sprightly *Parthians* are surpass'd ; 310  
Who roaring Lions bear alone at Bay.

But other Kinds suit other Beasts of Prey.  
Their diff'rent Genius Horses Colours tell :  
To chace Rain-Deer the Dapple-Grey impell ;  
The bristling Boars your Sorrel best attack, 315  
And for the Leopards still provide the Black ;  
To Sanded Lions suit the Sanded Steeds.  
But the *Nissæan* all in Shapes exceeds ;  
The Pad of Majest : Of beauteous Look,  
Easy to Hand, and to the Bridle broke : 320  
Of little Head, but large and floating Neck,  
With Mane disparted in a graceful Break.

Yet more, another lovely Sort are fam'd,  
Curiously dappled, and *Orynges* nam'd ;  
Whether because in Mountain-Pastures bred, 325  
Or from their Lust to mount the Marriage-Bed.  
This Breed two diff'rent Decorations deck :  
Embroider'd these, their sleek broad Backs and Neck  
Are richly purfled with a flow'ry Streak : 330  
Like Tygers fleet, by Western Gales begot.  
Those are bedropt with many a speckling Spot,

# 16 OPIAN'S BOOK I.

Distinct and studded, like the Leopard's Skin,  
Which nicest Hands, when young, enamell'd in,  
With burning Brass that deeply sing'd their Hair.

To mark a Colt unborn is still more rare. 335  
Curious Device of all-inventing Art,

How strange the Motions of the Human Heart !  
As Fancy guides, they beautify the Breed,  
And in his Mother's Flanks inscribe the Steed.

When soft Desires invade the Coursing Fair, 340  
Expecting the compressing Husband near,

Of gen'rous Strain ; they sprinkle o'er with Spots  
His Limbs, inrich'd and blaz'd with beauteous Blots.

Then proud in Trim, he to his Love is led.

As some blest Youth, who in his Suit has sped, 345  
By Bride-Maids drest in Robes of Joy, and crown'd  
With Flow'rs of Fragrance breathing Odours round,  
He seeks the Bridal Bed, and Nuptial Songs resound.

But the led Horse, as genial Joy he neighs  
Before his Spouse, and foams, and frets Delays, 350  
Long Time the Groom holds in his am'rous Mind,  
And then at last he's to his Joy confign'd.

His Love, conceiving brings a checker'd Breed,  
Receiving at her Eyes the flower'd Steed.

Not less th'Address of those, who make their Care 355  
The Fowler's Art, and ready Shafts prepare,  
When thus they variegate the Pigeon's Young,  
What Time with Love's soft Passion Doves are stung,  
And bill and coo their Love-preluding Song.

This

# BOOK I. CYNEGETICKS. 17

This rare Contrivance then the Feeder shows, 360  
Beside the She's he sundry Garments strows,  
Purpled and pink'd : Whence as aside they look,  
Their soft Conceptions have their Colours took.

This Manage too the *Spartan* Wit proclaims  
To feast the Fancy of conceiving Dames. 365  
The fairest Youths in Pictures nigh are plac'd,  
Who peerless shone, and former Ages grac'd,  
*Nireus, Narcissus, Hyacinth* the Fair,  
Helm-cover'd *Castor*, and *Amycus'* \* Slayer : \* *Pollux*.  
Among the Blest, young Deities renown'd, 370  
*Apollo* lawrel'd, *Bacchus* Ivy-crown'd.  
Th' attracted Shapes sink in their tender Thought,  
And form'd in Fancy, beauteous Babes are brought.

So much for Horses. Now descend the Mind  
To Hounds, and trace their Pedegree and kind. 375  
Distinguish'd these, and such your Huntsmen heed,  
*Pannonian, Carian*, and th' *Iberian* Breed,  
*Ausonian, Thracian, Spartan*, those of *Creet*,  
*Arcadian, Argive*, and *Tegæan* fleet,  
The *Celtic, Sauromatian, Amorgi*, 380  
And those which *Ægypt*'s Sandy Pastures ply,  
Herd-Keepers ; *Locrians*, and the \* *Mastiff*-Line. \* *Mc-*  
Now if a generous Lineage you design, [lofti.  
In Spring, as best, your Breeders match ; the Spring  
Most suits the Work its soft Suggestions bring, 385  
In Wild-Beasts, Beagles, th' Insect-Tribes that creep,  
Th' Aerial Race, and those that swim the Deep.

## 18 O P P I A N's BOOK I.

In Spring the Viper, full of Bane, elate  
Seeks the known Shore, and joins his Wat'ry Mate.  
In Spring, throughout the Seas new Nuptials brood,  
And wooing Fish befoam the calmey Flood.  
In Spring the Doves too rush upon the Doves,  
And strenuous Steeds ascend their skittish Loves.  
Bulls Heifers force, the Horny-wrinkled Rams  
In Spring ccompres their meek consenting Dames. 395  
Then Boars and Bears are in soft Unions join'd,  
And shaggy Goats seek Pleasures of the Kind.  
Ev'n Spring most pours its Love in Human Veins ;  
For univerſal then fair *Venus* reigns.

— But you that seek a Breed, shou'd chuse a Race, 400  
And with their Match a noble House shou'd place.  
*Arcadian* with th' *Eleian* mate, the *Creet*  
With *Pœons*, *Carians*, *Thracians*, *Spartans* fit  
The *Tyrrbene*, and a fair *Iberian* Bride  
To a *Sarmatian* Husband shou'd be ty'd. 405  
Thus well you'll mix the Breed. But far the best,  
Th' unmingled Blood : — of these in chief Request  
With Sportsmen, countleſs are the various Kind,  
But such their Form, and such their Shape you'll find.

A  
VER. 409. *But such their Form.*] *Julius Pollux*, in his 5th Book, gives us a large Description of the Hound ; a Translation of which may not be unacceptable to the Reader.

” In Regard to the personal Perfections of Dogs, (*says he*)  
” they are great, but not disproportion'd, nor ill-match'd. They  
” are flat-nos'd, well jointed, strong-brac'd with Fibres from their  
” Forehead downwards ; the Forehead is broad, with all the Lines  
” and Partitions exactly distinguished ; the Head light and ac-  
” tive ; the Eyes lofty, black, and sparkling ; the Look vivid  
” and

# BOOK I. CYNEGETICKS. 19

A long, firm Body, Head of larger Size, 410  
But light and quick shou'd shine the greyish Eyes.  
Fenc'd be the Mouth with pointed Teeth, above  
Let fine, thin Ears with Flaps contracted move ;  
Long Neck, and firm be the Broad Breast below,  
And a Size less Fore-Legs and Feet shou'd grow ; 415  
Straight, strong, and well-extended be the Shanks,  
Broad Shoulder-Blades, deep Ribs, and floping Flanks ;  
Firm be the fleshy Fillets, not too plump,  
And a thick, twirling Tail shou'd run from out the Rump.  
Such for the long, unwearied Chace prepare, 420  
For Roes, and Harts, and Tempest-footed Hare.  
Others there are, of Force and Fury full,  
Who'll brave, and beat the brawny-breasted Bull :

On

" and sprightly ; the Ears thin and small ; the Neck long, supple  
" and flexible ; the Breast fleshy and broad ; the Legs are streight  
" and tall, but the hindmost larger ; as for the foremost, they  
" must be erect, tight and round ; let the Sides be compact, nor  
" too deep and prominent ; the Fillets must not be too spare ;  
" a Medium in respect of the Flanks is best, so as they be neither  
" large, nor too much contracted ; the Tail must be long,  
" streight, sharp-pointed, small, reaching down the Thighs,  
" hard and dry ; the Feet pliant and nimble : Let the Hounds  
" be well-hair'd, and their Coats fine, soft and thick."

*Gratius*, in his Description of the Hound, is very acutely comprehensive in a little ; which is thus attempted in *English*.

Of Look erect, and rough-ear'd, be your Hound,  
Deep mouth'd, and from his op'ning Jaws profound  
Thick roll his Soul's keen Fires ; his Flanks be tight,  
And not too fine his Robe for Winter's Spight ;  
Let his full Breast from his firm Shoulders rise,  
To dare great Actions ; and, when dar'd, suffice.

VER. 422. *Others there are --]* The *Albanian* or *Indian*  
Dogs mention'd by the Writers of *Alexander's History*, two of which  
were

On bristling Boars will with Destruction spring,  
 Nor dread the Lordly Lion, tho' their King.  
 A Mountain-Size, and fleshy, flat of Nose,  
 A torvous Terror from their Eye-Lids flows,  
 Which twinkle Lightning as they bend their Brows.  
 Broad-back'd, strong-built, and shaggy is their Skin ;  
 Not swift, but all their Vigour lies within, 430  
 Qf Might immense, and Eagerness unpall'd.

To train for Chase these Sorts the Chief are call'd,  
 Hounds militant, that put all Beasts to Flight :  
 But the worst Colours are the Black and White ;  
 Unfit the Sun's fierce Fervors to sustain, 435  
 And the keen Veh'mence of the Snowy Plain.  
 But these excelling far the rest you'll find,  
 In Shape resembling those of Savage Kind,  
 Voracious Wolves, or Tygers swift as Wind.  
 Or which the Fox, or Leopard's Likeness shew, 440  
 Or such as wear the Cereal, Yellow Hue :  
 For fleetest that, as 'tis the strongest too.

But if a Breed of gen'rous Whelps you'd keep,  
 Ne'er let 'em suck the Matron-Goat, or Sheep,  
 Nor Household-Bitch. 'Twill bastardise the Breed, 445  
 Quite spoil the Strain, and take 'em off their Speed.  
 But they the Hind, tame Lioness may draw,  
 The Night-patrolling Wolf, or bounding Roe.

Thus

were presented to that Prince in his *Indian* Expedition. *Theopompus* also writes, That *Alexander* gave 200 Guineas for an *Indian* Dog, which with Ease wou'd master a Lion.

# BOOK I. CYNEGETICKS. 21

Thus Speed acquire their Limbs and added Force,  
Imbibing Manners from the suckling Nurse. 450

Short Names now for thy Infant Hounds be fram'd,  
Swift Things should hear themselves as swiftly nam'd.  
Let them, from Whelps, be Friends to Man and Horse,  
Kind, as becomes Companions of the Course ; 455  
Fierce, but to Beasts : Not apt to mouth, unmeet  
For stealthy Wiles in tracing flying Feet.

Two diff'rent Ways both Men and Hounds are led  
To trace the Game, two diff'rent Ways betray'd.  
Artful, by Prints the one their Eyes convey ; 460  
Their Noïe the others, and they snuff their Way.  
But for th' unlab'ring Eye the Winter's best,  
When on the treacherous Snow the Foot's impres't ;  
Or in the Mire its Characters are read,  
Which leave a Sample of the Savage Tread. 465

Adverse to Hounds the Spring, which Autumn friends ;  
In Spring the grassy Ground its Verdure mends,  
Abounds in blooming Buds, and breaths around,  
And purpled Meads with broid'ring Flow'rs are crown'd.  
Fresh Fallows too make stale the soften'd Scent, 470  
And th' Hound's sagacious Pow'r of Nose is spent.  
But in the fructuous, Grape-crown'd Autumn, Grafs,  
The Greens, and Flow'rs assume a shrivell'd Face, ,  
And Scent, unlessem'd, expedites the Chace. ,

Of Hounds for Train a potent Race are known, 475  
Small, but in Song they claim no small Renown.

Such

22 *O P P I A N'S BOOK I.*

Such the wild, painted *Britons* breed, and name  
\* *Agaffees*, of the Lap-Dog's Size and Frame.  
Bow-leg'd, gaunt, rough, and of a heavy Eye,  
But arm'd with firm, and well-nail'd Paws they ply. 480  
Their Mouths, like Darts, sharp thick-set Teeth enclose ;  
But chief th' *Agaffeus* all excells in Nose :  
Matchless in Scent, on Ground to run the Trace,  
Or wind the tainted Steams thro' airy Space.  
For wou'd the Huntsmen try their Whelps, they bear 485  
Without the Gate a dead or living Hare ;  
First forward they will run a Length, and next  
Wind either Way th' inverted Train perplext.  
When at due Distance from the City Gate,  
The Hare is thrust into a Hole ; and strait 490  
The Trainsman measures back his Way, to show  
His Pupil near the Path, and let him go :  
When with officious Foot the busy Hound  
Flies o'er the Spot, and snuffs the Scent around :  
He tries the Ground in Diligence of Thought, 495  
And missing there, he frets and flings about.  
As when a Dame, at her first Nine Months End,  
Pierc't with the Pangs the Pow'rs of Child-Birth send,  
Has loos'd her Tresses, loos'd her braided Breast,  
Gownless, uncoif'd, th' invading Pains invest, 500  
Madding, she rouls about the Room, anon  
Raves to the Porch, now flound'ring flings her down  
Upon

\* These *Agaffees* seem to be our Harriers ; for the Description will not answer to Beagles, much less Hounds.

# BOOK I. GYNEGETICKS. 23

Upon the Floor, now writhes upon the Ground,  
Grates her fair Cheeks, and groans a stifled Sound.  
So he, the Hound, with griding Grief distract, 505  
Plies here and there, and meditates his best ;  
Each Rock, each Hillock, and each Track he tries,  
Thro' Woods, Shrubs, Hedges, and Off-Turnings flies.  
But when at last the airy Trace he meets,  
He chuckles, grins for Joy, as when their Teats, 510  
Long miss'd, the Heifers Yeanlings frisk to find.  
So flouncing, he exulted in his Mind,  
And breaks away oblique, with wrigling Speed,  
Nor cou'd you turn him off the Path decreed :  
Caught with the luring Smell, foreright he bears, 515  
'Till, with his Labour's End, the Goal appears.

But if you lay him to th' unhunted Hare,  
He steals upon her, Step by Step, with Care  
Advancing, skreen'd by Sedge or Shrubs from View.  
As when a Thief belays the Fold perdue, 520  
The Shepherd sleeping nigh, and snaps by Slight.  
But when the Hare's snug Mansion comes in Sight,  
Swift as a Dart he shoots, or Viper's Speed,  
Unhous'd by some unheedful Peasant's Tread.  
O'erjoy'd, thus full he darts himself outright, 525  
Sure to subdue, if on the Prey he light,  
Which in his Jaws caught up, he makes his Way,  
And waddles back, and lugs along his Prey.  
As when in Harvest-Time, the creaking Wain  
Bears to the Barn a mighty Load of Grain, 530

D

Her

24 *OPPIAN, &c.* BOOK I.

Her Coming spy'd, the Swains to meet her throng,  
One helps the Steers, one roul's the Wheels along,  
One guides the Load, and safe arriv'd the Charge,  
Unyoak'd, the reeking Bullocks breathe at large,  
While the spent Driver, pleas'd, exults in Thought.  
So back he comes, and with his Triumph fraught : 535  
The Huntsman flies, and shoves up from the Ground,  
With open Arms, his Venison and Hound.

VER. 537. Nearer the Greek— *his Game and Game-sped Hound.*



*The End of the First Book.*



19 DE 63





A

# POEM

Humbly INSCRIB'D to the

# QUEEN,

ON HER

*MAJESTY's Birth-Day.*

---

— *Vultus ubi tuus  
Affulgit populo, gravior it dies,  
Et soles melius nitent.*

HOR.

---

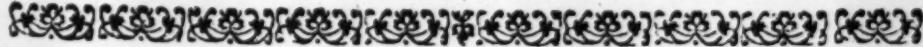
Written in the Year 1728, after an Imitation  
of LUCAN on the Siege of *Gibraltar*.

---

*By the same.*

---

Printed in the Year 1736.







*A Poem Humbly Inscrib'd to  
the QUEEN, &c.*

From Scenes of Blood, and War's destructive Deeds,  
Where Glory calls, and where the Battle bleeds,  
The Muse withdrawn, unlearns her Martial Mein,  
And smooths her Verse to hail *Britannia's QUEEN*.

As youthful Warriors, yet unknown to Fame,  
Perform a Siege, or fight themselves a Name ;  
Where as they speed in Valour's first Essays,  
In Peace they share their Sovereign's Smiles of Grace  
So from the Wars of vent'rous Verse return'd,  
Where youthful Fire in wordy Battle burn'd,  
The Muse devotes the Bays of her Campaign  
To crown the Blessings of the *Brunswic Reign* ;  
Whilst one Regard of *GLORIA NA*'s Smile  
Will doubly pay her bold Exploits of Style.  
In Freedom's glorious Cause she nobly dar'd,  
And Praise, the Price of her Achievements, shar'd.  
Thus Honour's the chief Motive of the Brave,  
To shed their Blood, while they their Country save.

But

But let the Rage of Verse and Battle cease ;  
 Muse, with a peaceful Prospect seek to please :  
 Be to the QUEEN thy smoother Numbers brought,  
 There look away all Truculence of Thought ;  
 Dwell on her Charms, and Majesty serene,  
 Her winning Grace, and Peace-persuading Mein.

GREAT QUEEN ! 'tis Your's to hush the World's  
 [ Alarms,

Look 'em to Peace, and smile away their Arms ;  
 Each jarring Faction of the Soul compose,  
 And bid Mankind forget they once were Foes.  
 'Tho' Heav'n by Night with Tempests may be torn,  
 The Clouds roll off, when *Venus* gilds the Morn.  
 Your Graces give your Scepter double Sway,  
 And Factions only struggle to obey.

When Heav'n some Blessing for Mankind ordains,  
 With which Fate travails with unusual Pains ;  
 The mighty Grace comes forward by Degrees,  
 And Heav'n performs as HE our Fitness sees ;  
 Not full at once it rushes on our Sight,  
 But wisely tempers with Suspence Delight.  
 So gently rais'd, to sooth our Hopes and awe,  
 Your growing Grandeur gave our Passions Law ;  
 Too much at once to be indulg'd : The Joy  
 Of sudden Blessings does themselves destroy.

The Sun first streaks the Skies with red'ning Ray,  
 O'er Eastern Hills, before he leads the Day ;  
 Then by Degrees, illustrious to the Eyes,  
 Flames in full Radiance, and lights all the Skies.

Thus

Thus e'er Your Rays of Glory issue forth,  
 You send before the Dawnings of your Worth,  
 Preluding to the World the rich Display  
 Of ripen'd Virtues in Meridian Day.

At Glory's Height, they can no higher rise ;  
 Nor You show more, until you mount the Skies.

But Heav'n, in Goodnes, long preserve you here,  
 To shew what Shape the Heav'ly Graces wear ;  
 Nor give You more of Mortal than to show  
 You're Human, only to be copy'd so :  
 And copy'd so, as when in One unite  
 All that the World can boast of Exquisite.  
 But whilst we're far in Practice thrown behind,  
 Deign us to view the Image of Your Mind,  
 As Virtue's Shrine and Pattern for Mankind :  
 Lest when we'd copy, we be forc'd to trace  
 ONE WHOLE, as scatter'd thro' the Human Race.

So when in *Zeuxis* Art with Nature strove  
 To paint to Life the radiant Queen of Jove,  
 He summon'd all the fairest Fair of *Greece*,  
 To raise his Fancy, and inspire the Piece.  
 Pleas'd with his Work, the happy Painter glows,  
 While from his Hand the breathing Goddess rose ;  
 While each one's Charms were wrought in ONE so well,  
 That each did her own Excellence excell.  
 But, had they your superior Presence seen,  
 Vain had the Artist's happiest Touches been,  
 Thro' the rich Frame where Mental Beauties shone  
 So full of Life, the Body's scarce a Shrine :

*Greece*

Greece wou'd to You her holy Rites restrain,  
 And consecrate her fam'd *Lacinian* Fane,  
 Whilst all with one united Voice declare,  
*Juno's* the Image, You the Goddess are.

From Heav'n the Muses challenging their Birth,  
 In Ddty hail Heav'n's Delegates on Earth ;  
 Hence their pleas'd *Chorus* to your Presence flies,  
 And takes new Inspirations from Your Eyes.  
 Thus Eastern Saints their annual Visits make  
 To Shrines of Piety for Virtue's Sake ;  
 Returning thence with heighten'd Grace and Chear,  
 They promise Blessings for th' ensuing Year.  
 So zealous here the Muse Attendance pays,  
 And decorates this Anniverse with Bays :  
 This Duty paid, what Poet may not hope  
 For fair Adventure from so fair a Scope ?

And lo ! as constant in his Round, the Sun,  
 To joy your Birth-Day, does his Period run,  
 And makes Obeyfance at fair Virtue's Shrine,  
 Where Heav'n's kind Influence does selected shine ;  
 Thence, with recruited Rays, he rounds the Skies,  
 Re-lighted from th' Effulgence of your Eyes.

Long may this Day revolve with gen'ral Joy,  
 Nor by Enjoyment may your Blessings cloy ;  
 May Heav'n smile on it with a Look serène,  
 As that fair Morn that crown'd You *Albion's Queen* :  
 As that fair Morn which all our Wishes sped,  
 When to three Nations Hearts You deign'd to wed :

When

When the three Nations *Genius* came to view  
 The Royal Consort, and Presages drew  
 Of future Glories from that Dawn of You.

Hail happy Day ! Thou should'st lead on the Year ;  
 And Time from Thee shou'd date his first Career,  
 Let loose from old Eternity his Sire,  
 To whirl the World, nor in his Round to tire.  
 Now *Eden* rose in Nature's vernal Bloom,  
 And all the gay Creation throng'd for Room,  
 With various Scenes to feast the fateless Eyes  
 Of *Eve*, fair Sovereign of the Paradise.  
 Where-e'er she treads, each rural Beauty meets,  
 And round her breathes a Wilderness of Sweets ;  
 Spontaneous Earth teems with un-number'd Springs,  
 And all her flow'ry Stores, unbidden, brings.

So in the Rounds of Time the fragrant Hours  
 Wake at your Birth the fresh-reviving Flow'rs ;  
 Rescu'd from Winter's cold Embrace, the Year  
 Puts on new Robes, which with new Charms endear  
 Her varied Visage to th' attracted View,  
 While Spring's whole balmy Offspring blows for You.  
 A Youthful Freshness smiles in ev'ry Mein,  
 And Nature casts Old-Age for *Britain's QUEEN*.

Ev'n These, the fairest Daughters of the Land,  
 That round your Court, of Charms distinguish'd, stand,  
 And from your Eyes a double Luster draw,  
 Shedding around divided Love and Awe,  
 Ope on the nearer Sun new Dawns of Grace,  
 Improving *Sol's* with *GLORIANA's* Rays :

While from Her Eyes a sweeter Effluence streams,  
 Where meeken'd Majesty serenes their Beams.  
 The Goddesses were too severely bright,  
 In Heav'n's full Blaze to be indulg'd to Sight,  
 For Mortals hence a softning Air they drew,  
 Ray'd with the Sun, and stood confess'd to View.

But, Muse, with Caution, view the shining Throng,  
 Nor lead, unheedful, a young Bard along ;  
 Whilst he their Charms would in his Verse display,  
 His Eyes, unfaithful, might his Heart betray ;  
 Or like *Prometheus*, stealing Heav'nly Fire  
 From those bright Eyes, he'd by the Theft expire.  
 Gradually rise ; first lower Beauties sing,  
 Then try the Court, and strike a bolder String,  
 Last to the QUEEN thy finish'd Numbers bring. }

So th' unplum'd Eaglet upwards turns his Sight,  
 And casts in Thought to meet the God of Light ;  
 But new to soar, when first abroad he flies,  
 In short Excursions he his Pinions tries :  
 Does tow'r'd some Mountain's Brow his Wings display,  
 And gains the Summit for his first Effay, }  
 Then looks with Transport down on the steep }  
 [Length of Way.]

Thus practis'd in the Steerage of his Wings,  
 With Strength confirm'd, on Air he upwards springs,  
 Eyes the full Sun, and meets his downward Ray,  
 Basks in the Blaze, and hails the Source of Day.

19 DE 63  


# PROPOSALS

For Printing, by SUBSCRIPTION,

## The Book of PSALMS,

A N D

## Solomon's Song.

A SPECIMEN whereof will be  
given in the LATTER.

Intended for an Introduction to a SUPPLEMENT  
to the LONDON POLIGLOT BIBLE, (which,  
with a due Provision for the Expence, the  
A U T H O R hopes to see executed in a short  
Time) wherein the *Hebrew* and *Greek* Texts  
are establish'd and reconcil'd, all the various  
Readings exhibited at one View, and the  
*English* Version reform'd, according to the  
true Sense of the Original and Genuine Text.

A PLAN of which may be seen in the following  
*Title-Page*; and an ACCOUNT of which will  
be given in the PREFACE to the Canticles.

I This WORK will make a large Vol. in *Quarto*.  
II. Considering the Difficulty of printing Ori-  
ental Languages, and so many Columns in a  
Page, the Price to Subscribers cannot be set  
at less than Two Guineas the Small Paper,  
and Three Guineas and a Half the Large,  
which shall be Red Rul'd, and the best that  
can be got : For the Small Paper ;

Half



Half a Guinea to be paid at the Time of Subscription ; Half a Guinea at the Receipt of the Canticles, in Sheets ; and One Guinea more at the Receipt of the Psalms : For the Large Paper, One Guinea to be paid at Subscribing ; One Guinea at the Receipt of the Canticles ; and a Guinea and a Half at the Receipt of the Psalms.

III. The Canticles are ready to be put to the Press, (a Specimen of which will be printed very shortly) and the Psalms will be finish'd in a little Time : The Whole will be printed as soon as a competent Number of Subscriptions shall be procured.

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*Hebraicè, Græcè, Latine, Æthiopicè, & Anglicè:*

*OPUS in Sex Ordines tributum,  
Complectens,*

- I. Textum Hebræum, juxta *D. Majcalefi* Methodum, à punctis aliisq; inventis Massorethicis liberum, pristinæ integritati, quoad fieri potuit, restitutum, cum Variantibus omnibus uno intuitu conspicendi.
- II. Græcam LXX Interp. Versionem ex antiquissimo MS. Codice Alexandrino accuratè descriptam.
- III. Collationem Vaticani omniumq; variantium Codicū, necnō Fragmentorum veterum Versionum, per Columnam continuâ serie à latere alterius Textūs dispositam.
- IV. Lātinam τῶν ὁ Versionem *Flam. Nobilii* Operā è SS. Patrum, et Veterum Latinorum scriptis concinnatam, quæ itidem Æthiopicæ inservit, discrepantiis infrā annotatis.
- V. Æthiopicam ex Clariss. *Jobi Ludolfi* recognitione accuratam Versionem, cum Notis ejusdem.
- VI. Anglicam ad genuinum Textum emendatam.

Adjectis Notulis inter se conciliandi studio  
Hebræos et Græcos, Textus Originales restituendi  
Tentaminis ergo,

Summa fide edidit *JOANNES MAWER, A. M.*

[ \* \* ]

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CRATHORN, in *Cleaveland*,  
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TO



TO THE  
 RIGHT HONOURABLE  
 Sir *Robert Walpole*,  
 Knight of the Most Noble  
 Order of the GARTER, &c.

S I R,



HE Muses have generally obtained a favourable Regard from the Greatest Princes, and their most Eminent and Ablest Ministers, who have adorned their High Employments with paying some Respects to polite Literature. Hence I have presumed to apply to your Honourable Protection, in Favour of the celebrated *Oppian* made an Englishman, for whose Merits your Countenance is humbly hop'd upon the Author, for making him speak English, in order to his Admission to the Court of our English *Augustus*.  
 And

And what happier Introduction, what nobler Means of Address, can an English Poet chuse for himself to the most distinguish'd *Mæcenas* of our Times, eminent for an exact Taste of every Thing truly ornamental in a finish'd Character, than an Author illustrious for his Reception and \* Reward from the greatest Emperor then in the World, and whose Works are render'd venerable by the accumulated Praise of Ages? I will venture to affirm, Sir, that it has been no inconsiderable Accession to your Glory, that the Muses have tasted of your Munificence, in several Respects, beyond what they have known before in these Kingdoms for several Successions; and it is very observable, that there never was any eminently Great Encourager of the *Belles Lettres*, but he had other Excellencies that set him in a superior Regard to the rest of Mankind. As this allowed Penetration and refined Taste, in all the Arts and Sciences, should discourage the importunate Addresses of Pretenders; so as diffident as Merit is, it has this just Motive of approaching You, that it is sure of a Reception adequate to so true a Discernment in the Patron: Of whom the late Laureat,

*If a new Oppian brings Pierian Lines,  
In Thee another Caracalla shines.*

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\* He receiv'd a Piece of Gold for every Verse, with the Emperor's further Gratuity of putting it to his Option to ask any Favour he had a Mind to; which was accordingly granted.

I would

I would not trust to my own Stock for producing these *Pierian Lines*, but permit me, Sir, to present to You *Oppian* himself, an Author who recommends himself to Your Patronage by a double Title ; as well by his entertaining Subject, as by the Excellence of his Poetry.

This presents an Occasion not to be neglected, of giving some Account of the following Work, both in favour of my Author, and in Apology for myself : Wherein, if I seem more prolix than is fit to expect the Attention of a Mind taken up with Matters of more Honourable and Universal Importance ; after You have turn'd away, may I humbly crave your Permission of applying myself, in what follows, to such as have more Leisure to hear me.

Our Author's Subject is Hunting, as it was practised in his Time, and as it is so still in foreign Countries, with some Change of Circumstances. A Diversion whose just Encomium would fill up many Pages, were I to produce all its Recommendations from the ancient Authors, both in the Person and Example of Great Princes, and other Illustrious Personages. We might set it in a very advantageous Light from the Holy Scripture itself, and the Practice of some of its most renowned Worthies. But as much as this Article makes for the Dignity of our Work, it shall be acquitted for this one Observation : That as these are unexceptionable Precedents for Persons of the most Honourable and Important Employments, to unbend their Thoughts, and relieve their busy Hours this

Way ; so it receives a Sanction, from being improved to that Use, by one of the Greatest Statesmen that this, or perhaps any other Age, has produced. Hereupon let me further observe, How pertinently the noblest Author in the Venatick Kind is addressed to the noblest Patron and Admirer of the Art or Game he celebrates.

This opens my Subject to a double View, First, As it brings me to touch upon the Merits of our Author.

Secondly, To observe how laudably Persons of the highest Rank and Importance may, by this Exercise, give an Intermission to Busness, and the severer Applications of the Mind : And consequently, that it is as reputable in Gentlemen of Letters, who chuse to relieve their Studies by so innocent and useful a Recreation.

The Use and Execution of a Design are the proper Characteristicks whereby we are to estimate the Excellence of it. Accordingly, as an Author succeeds in these, he challenges a proportionate Degree of our Esteem. The End of Poetry, above all other Writing, is to delight as well as to instruct. And in both these Regards, I shou'd not doubt to give it the Preference of all Sorts of Composing. But as Instruction may be convey'd by a great many less entertaining Ways, let it be the principal Praise and the Excellency of Poesie, to touch the Passions, and improve the Mind after the most agreeable Manner : For of all Means of Instruction, that must be most useful and best approved, which insinuates itself to our Liking, and takes us on the

the most sensible Part. This is the proper Province of Poesie, and of that Part of Poesie in particular, whose Scene lies most in common Life, and whose End is to adorn Nature, to make her look more beautiful, but still to make her look like herself. And of such Subjects as come under this Kind, those more peculiarly recommend themselves, which lead to the Representation of Nature in her Innocence, and in such Tracts as lie most open to our Practice, and make us the best Offers to engage us in the Pursuit.

Let us see how this will consist with the Sort of Poesie, of which we are to treat. In order to this, we must remark in general, that of the greater or sublimer Kinds, Epic or Heroic Poetry is usually allowed the first Rank, and upon this just Title ; as it is the Representation of the most Illustrious Characters and Actions, and is design'd to inspire sublime and noble Sentiments by Great Example. But since the Subject of an Epic Poem is a continued Series of mighty Atchievements, which end in some great Revolution, and regards the Fate and Establishment of Empires by the Heroic Exploits of a Conqueror ; here is the less Matter of Imitation or Instruction, it being above the Sphere of Activity of most Men so far, that as it is the Work of Ages to produce an accomplish'd Hero, Nature is at such an Expence to form a Genius, to furnish out a perfect Heroic Poem, that the World hitherto has but seen two, which have been universally allowed for such. For as Pro-

digies are a Contradiction to the establish'd or known Laws of Nature, their Effects would be lost to the World by a too frequent Use of them ; and as the Uniformity of Providence in its whole Conduct is admirable, so even in the Case before us ; and the Poets ought to be thankful for its Indulgence in this Respect, that they are not tempted above what they are able : For they are no more obliged to be perfect Heroic Poets, than Nature is obliged in every Age to bring forth perfect Heroes. Let then Heroic Poesie, as it is arduous, be honourable ; and may its Poets without Contest enjoy the very Summits of *Parnassus*. But since it is more the Subject of our Admiration, than it is of common Use and practical Entertainment, let us try to find a Vein of the same Source, which, in both these Regards, runs more directly towards us, and the Scope we aim at.

Under this Head will be comprehended a Poetical Representation of any of the several Parts of Great Nature, whether such as afford Matter of instructive Contemplation only, or such as are properly designed for our Use and Benefit. This brings us home to our Argument, as we shall find what we look for, in a Poetical Description of the Warfare of the Woods, the Administration of the Savage Kingdom, as it is a Part of the Dominion of Man, and the Scene of his Divertisement. The Celebration of these in the Majesty of Epic Poesie, with all the incidental Graces and Decorations of that Strain, certainly challenges a Title to the first Rank in Poetry.

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Now such is the Subject of the Author before us ; and the Execution is not at all inferior to his Theam, notwithstanding the Censure of *Rapin*, who has pronounced as inaccurately on other Authors. For this Reason, I should hardly scruple to give *Oppian*, as *Scaliger* has done, the Preference in several Respects to *Homer*. I am far from robbing that Father of Poesie of his due Honour. He is no doubt the greatest Poet that ever lived, and possesses all the Requisites of his Art in a supereminent Degree ; especially Invention, the Soul, and even the All of Poesie. He is venerable for his Antiquity ; he is the Source of almost every Species of Poetry ; he is the Magazine of almost all Arts and Sciences ; he abounds in vast Depths of good Sense and Moral Instruction, and may be regarded as the most ancient Code and Pandect now extant of the Heathen Theology. Herein he holds the first Rank, which must not be disputed with him. But then as his Plan is built upon the Pagan System, and the exploded Fables of the Gods of Heathenism, he is obsolete, and seems trifling in a very fundamental Part to a Christian Poet, notwithstanding all his Fire, and other Excelencies. Whence I must own, I can't read him with the same Pleasure and Heat of Fancy, as I did when at the Age of Twenty. Besides, as it was observed before, his Scheme lies out of the common Road of Practice ; whereas that of *Oppian* falls within the Range of all Ranks and Orders of Men, and deserves the more Esteem as it is universal. His Representation is the Picture of

of corrupted Nature, and its Miseries and Hardships: That of *Oppian*, of a State of Innocence, of wholesome Entertainment, and various Emoluments, such as became the first and best Ages, and would not be abhorrent from such a State of Purity and Perfection, to which it was the Intent of the Gospel to reform Mankind. And, when to the Simplicity of the Argument are added all the Charms of Poesie, heighten'd with Moral Observations, and a curious Research into Nature, in Pursuance of such Hints as occasionally occur in the Course of the Poem, I know not any Sort of Writing that can be more entertaining and instructive. How far *Oppian* would have excell'd himself in this Regard, had he been acquainted with the present Improvements of Natural Philosophy, and had now and then indulged his poetical Fancy in such just Speculations as the Christian System furnishes, I leave to the judicious Reader's Reflection.

I have now in some Measure anticipated the Subject of our Second Article. For by touching on the Excellencies of this Sort of Poesie, and the Usefulness of this Diversion, in passing, we need be the less diffusive in recommending the Benefit of this Kind of Relaxation of Thought, in Persons of the most honourable Employments, and Men of Letters.

Human Life, as Sir *William Temple* observes, is at the best but like a froward Child, and must be play'd with, and humour'd a little, to keep it quiet. And tho' Men are carry'd into the different Pursuits of Interest or Pleasure, according

ing to their different Conditions and Inclinations ; yet as the same Application to Business, and Attention of Mind, can't be kept up, without frequent Interruptions, and some exhilarating Interludes ; it is of great Use to look out such Amusements as best answer their End, and which help to divert the Passions from any thing excessive or criminal. The Mind of Man is active and ranging ; Indolence and Doing-Nothing are what it is naturally averse from. Hence it is, that if it be not well employ'd, it will of Course entertain itself with something that is ill. This is so true in Fact, that I believe there is no Man of Genius, or Quickness of Parts in any Kind, who, if he is not engaged in laudable Pursuits, will not, rather than lie by, take up with such as are vicious, unworthy, or some way pernicious to himself, or others.

Mankind may be divided, in general, into the two Classes, of Business and Pleasure. The First are the Persons whom we shall chiefly consider in this Regard. As the others make Pleasure their sole Pursuit, and by that very Means lose what they seek for ; so they come upon the Stage of Life with as little Consequence, as an Actor is impertinently brought into a Play, when he appears without End or Design, and contributes nothing to the main Action.

Your Men of Business are the Persons of principal Regard in a State, and the very Pleasures of such are of Consideration, and may be made subservient to the same End. Extravagance of Gaming is of such public ill Consequences, that

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it becomes a wise Legislature to discountenance and restrain it. Vicious Pleasures should also, if not made penal, be render'd infamous. But Gaming becomes culpable or criminal, only by Excess ; and such as are not of a Habit of Body to pursue the vigorous Exercises of the Fields, may be innocently enough indulged in such Diversions, as are used only to make Life more agreeable, to relieve Busines, and to whet an Appetite to return to it.

Now of all Pursuits of Pleasure, those challenge the first Esteem, which serve to quicken the Springs of the Mind, and recruit its Vigour of Thought, while they are also highly conducive to a good State of Health, and proper Harmony of the Animal Functions. This is so peculiarly the Happiness of the Rural Sports, that I scarce so much as ever walk, or ride into the Fields, but I am particularly disposed for Meditation, and have often turned a Day of Pleasure, this Way, into more Benefit towards any Sort of Composures, than if I had sat it out in my Study. Presented with such a pleasing Variety of Objects, the Mind draws in new Ideas, at the same Time that we draw fresh Air ; and a lively Imagination is mightily assisted by these Changes of Situation and Action, and that open View as it were of the Creation, that tempts the Mind to a Sort of freer Excursion. So just have I found that Precept of the Poetical Prelate, the Excellent *Vida*, in his Art of Poetry, who advises a Change of Soil and Air, and to try different Climates and Situations, whilst you are engaged in any large Poetical Composure.

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As for the Advantages accruing to the Body from this Manly Diversion, I need attempt no further Encomium, but transcribe the following Lines of the Prince of English Poets.

*By Chase our long-liv'd Fathers earn'd their Food ;  
Toil strung the Nerves, and purify'd the Blood :  
But we their Sons, a pamper'd Race of Men,  
Are dwindled down to Threescore Years and Ten.  
Better to hunt in Fields, for Health unbought,  
Than fee the Doctor for a nauseous Draught.  
The Wise for Cure on Exercise depend ;  
G O D never made His Work for Man to mend.*

How well this agrees with the Taste of undepav'd Antiquity, and what Sentiments they had of the Rural OEconomy, appears by the Practice of their most Illustrious Personages, when to manage a Flock was an honourable Employment for Princes, who, from the Experience, the Conduct, and Government of the Animal Kingdom, were sometimes promoted to the Government of Mankind. And thus the ablest Generals, from their Address in the Stratagems of Chase, and the Sylvan Toils, have afterwards signaliz'd themselves in the Art of War, for which the other was by the Antients esteemed an excellent Preparative. It was by this very Means that *Mithridates* became the Greatest Prince of his Time, and left such an Idea of himself to all After-Ages.

Here is Example and Use, great enough to carry Persons of the highest Place and Character, in these modern Times also, into these Di-

versions, at their vacant Hours : And a Statesman, in ranging the Fields, has the same Advantages of laying Schemes of Government, and varying his Politicks to this or that View, as the Man of Letters has in forming new Images, and marshalling his Ideas for a Discourse, or a Poem. I take the Boldness of bringing the Muses, here, into the Field, in the same Range with the Rulers of States, and Directors of Kingdoms, because of the Honour the Noble Person (at whose Feet these Pages are laid with all Humility and Devotion) has done them, by his Encouragement and Example, shewing what Use and Ornament they are of to Government itself. And I am further animated to this, by the Idea of the Great Prince before-mention'd, whom no doubt the Learned, to their Honour, must number amongst themselves ; and whose Skill, in such a Multitude of Languages, evinces, that Letters and the Woods may be good Friends and Co-adjutors : For from such Retreats have issued, upon the Stage of the World, some of the most considerable Persons that shine in Story, amongst whom, I think, *Mithridates* is to be regarded as a Monarch of the first Note in Antiquity. His great Parts, evidenced in Speaking Twenty Two different Languages ; his extensive Power, in reigning over as many different Nations ; his being able, by his own Councels and Conduct, to oppose the whole Force of the Roman Empire for so long a Time, must set him high in our Admiration.

It might seem a very abrupt Transition from Monarchs to the Muses, did we not observe, that

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in all the best Ages they were Companions, and that the best and greatest Princes have made it their Glory, to be of the Muses Company. Upon this Prerogative, I will therefore presume to mention, that as Languages have been a Part of my Study, wherein, when I have compass'd my Design, I may equal the Number of *Mithridates*; which with my whole Studies are entirely dedicated to the Service of the Church and State; I can, with the better Right, recommend the Diversions of Chace, and the Pastimes of the Forest, to Men of such sedentary Lives as Scholars are, as the best and most beneficial Manner of intermitting their Hours of Application; which I have experienced, and use solely for that End.

Herein we must commend the Wisdom of our Ancestors, who have by Law provided, that Clergymen may share these Recreations, equally with others, as a Means to fit them the better for their Studies and Function. And as the Author of these Papers is qualified by Law, he would humbly recommend such of his Brethren, as are not so, to the Indulgence of Country Gentlemen, being by their Education, and publick Service, entitled to share in these innocent Diversions, were not these Privileges restrain'd to a certain Annual Revenue. If any Enemy to the Order, or severe One of it, shou'd object to these Diversions in Men of the Profession; I have already prevented them; and the Author of these Aassertions is willing, for the Time that he has had the Honour to be of it, to join Issue of what he

has done, is doing, and proposes further to do, for the Service of his Function, with any such Object; in the Prosecution of which, especially in Regard of Health, and a slender Constitution, these Rural Refreshments are found to be extremely beneficial.

With the same View was undertaken the following Translation, an Account of which, with a Specimen annexed, has been publish'd in one of the most noted Weekly Papers. To tell the World in how small a Time a Work was finish'd, is very often no Recommendation of it; especially if it requires Care and Exactness, since it must stand alone by its own Merit. Yet perhaps it is no Prejudice to Works of Wit, to have it known, with how much Ease, and in how little Time, they were executed, since they must be better thought of, when they have been made a Matter of Recreation and Choice only, and not of Toil, or Imposition. Such was the Pleasure of the Translator of the following Poem, taken up casually, and for Amusement only, that had he been provided of a good Edition, as that of *Adus*, which he used, is intolerable, he wou'd have finish'd the Whole, at the Rate of doing the First Book, in Four Weeks. Such is the Translation here presented, with no great Alterations: For the Faults and Inaccuracies of which, if the Haste in the Execution will not satisfy the Demand, *Why did you not then take more Pains in Revising?* He must confess the *Foible*, avail what it can, that in Works of Pleasure only, he can no longer proceed, than they continue to be so; by Pains-taking

taking such become Drudgery, and lose their End. To tamper therefore with such Things, if they succeed not well at first, is most disagreeable to a Mind that took them up only for Amusement. If this can be pardon'd, the following Books are proposed to be done, when the Translator finds Leisure, and the same Disposition and Pleasure in doing them.

This however may be alledged in Favour of the Translation; that it has been endeavoured to render the *Grec* as closely as possible, usually Line for Line, and I think always Period for Period; the Neglect of which Method, without pretending to rival any one, is I believe a Defect, which most of our Poets have but little regarded. It is to be sure the most difficult Way of rendering a Poet, and shou'd certainly be follow'd, when the Spirit and Elegancies of the Original can be brought into the same Compass, without cramping the Sense, and without Prejudice to the Versification. This is what I principally aim'd at, and thereupon hope something will be allow'd me, by equitable Judges, for the less I have allow'd myself, when I might have taken more Liberty, by a Sort of Authority, in following Examples with whom I'm not worthy to be named. The Compound *Grec* Words are also retained by a literal Rendering, wherever they could be introduced in our Language with Propriety; and a sprinkling of these is of good Use among our harsh Monosyllables, which they soften and harmonize, by Custom sliding into our Language, as it were naturally.

Of *Oppian*, I shall add no more, but just observe, that he furnishes Matter for many curious Observations from Natural History, which I proposed to collect ; but can't now promise, for other Business, therefore shou'd be pleased to see it done by some other Hand, that has more Leisure and Opportunity. A Collection of all the Writers of Natural History, with Critics and Commentators, requisite for such a Work, as they are very numerous, and some of them scarce, and not easily purchased, wou'd be no little Expence to procure ; and at a great Distance from well-stock'd Libraries, one can't be otherwise furnish'd. Having also other very expensive Works to execute, I'm willing to excuse myself this additional Labour and Charge, for the present.

It were to be wish'd, that we had all the ancient Poets, worth a Version, and proper for our Numbers, translated into English Verse by the best Hands. Nothing contributes more than such Translations, to improve our Language and Verse ; and perhaps this is the best Means to correct the Taste of a People in general. In this Method of improving their Language, the *French* have gone before us with great Success and Applause, in their Prose especially ; the Genius of their Language not being happy enough to render the ancient Poets their Dignity in Verse, thro' a natural Defect in their Numbers and Versification, and a certain Languor and Want of Force in their Metre, proceeding also as much from their Pronunciation and Accent, as from

from the Structure and Feebleness of the French Tongue, which admits not of those happy Boldnesses and Variations of Diction in the English Syntax, equal, in that to the *Greek* and *Latin*. Nor wou'd any thing give a greater Value to our Language among Foreigners, than to let them see the Ancients, as it were reviv'd among us, in their native Energy and Elegance : A Happiness which our Language is the most capable of, among all the Mcdern, and which few, or none beside, can approach. Our *Golden-Age* of Poets, 'tis true, is past ; I mean, chiefly, in respect of their Number, and those of the Dramatick Kind. But tho' we have not our *Dryden*, we have our *Pope* ; and in Translation the present Age has succeeded as well as the former, I think I may venture to say, has excell'd it, since Mr. *Pope* has improv'd our Versification, so much, that his Example has had a general good Influence on our English Verse.

The Public had been much better gratified, had such an excellent Hand given us a Translation of the Poem before us, which, since it had not been done by any one, I have ventur'd to undertake, to divert myself in my Retirement, hoping the Publication of it will be favourably received, since it proceeds purely from the good-natured Design of communicating a private Pleasure, with such as are either Lovers of the Muses, or Rural Diversions. A Scholar, who has a Turn for Poetry, can't more agreeably, more elegantly, nor more usefully relieve his Solitude, than by conversing sometimes with the *Græcian Muses*,  
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and giving such as are unacquainted with the Elegancies of the *Greeks*, some Interviews with such entertaining Company, in their own Language, as far as that can approach the Dignity and inimitable Graces of the other ; for there must be allowed a great Distance betwixt them. And it would be a further Pleasure to the Author, if he may be judged, by any Thing he has to produce from it, not to have made the worst Use of a Country Life, and of Youth, that is usually taken with far other Sort of Solicitations, than a severe Application to such Studies, as require a Man's whole Time ; and which was led by more promising Views, but was too early thrown out in the Pursuit. To be fix'd remote from all Advantages of Letters, after having made Preparations for being useful in some more favourable Scene, throws an almost insuperable Damp upon an enterprizing Genius, at his first setting out, and has been a great Obstruction to some Literary Designs, with which the Public have been acquainted. After such ill Luck at starting, young Men are not apt to make many further Attempts of recovering themselves in the Chase, but usually comport themselves with the Obscurity into which they are driven, and bring down the Vigour and Elevation of their Minds, improved and directed to nobler Purposes, with such Amusements, as serve to abate that ingenuous Ardor, and divine Energy of excellent Spirits, and wear off the Impressions of those first happy Impulses, so as to make them remember their laudable Ambition no more. In Repugnance to such

such a Procedure, we may, 'tis presum'd, be allowed some Liberty in our Vindication, for still exerting an honest Ambition of endeavouring to be of some Consideration in the World of Letters, and struggling against a long Opposition of unfavourable Incidents ; which, when they come cross to sanguine Expectations, and intercept the most honourable Designs, are of a very depressing Nature, unless they meet with a resolute Spirit, buoy'd up with a more than ordinary Excitation. And since it ought to be no Imputation to a Man for seeking to prevent his Objectors, and to intrench himself against Censure, a young Writer may be excused, for casting what Light he can, fairly, upon his no inglorious Retreat, in order to gain the Candor of his Readers, and the Public good Will.

It is indeed justly remarkt by the great *Spanish* Wit, the Author of *Don Quixot*, that *every Man is the Son of his own Deeds*, insinuating, the Source of Honour is in personal Worth, and that Merit and Honour depend not on any Train of Ancestors, nor do virtually and of Course transmit themselves down thro' a Series of Descendants : Yet it is an additional Honour to a Man, to emulate the Worth of his Progenitors. In a human Regard, and in secular Affairs, there is often Room for *imputative* Merit, and the public Virtues of a Man's Relatives, may justly, and are usually allowed, to reflect some of their Value upon him, if he is a proper Recipient for it, by proposing them for his Imitation : For by such an honourary Participation, we are incited to a laudable and

generous Emulation, and thus one Man's Merit becomes productive of its Like in many more, and is the more beneficial as the more diffused and imparted. Upon this Principle, a young Man of good Hopes may be permitted to borrow a little of Family Stock, in Support of his Pretensions, which, in Conjunction with his own, may give him a passable Merit. What therefore the Author of these Sheets wants in himself, he hopes u his good Endeavours, of being publickly beneficial, will entitle him to the Favour and Privilege of supplying, or at least, of being acquitted of a total Unworthiness, by claiming to the Merits of such Relations, as have gone before in the worthy Character of *doing Good* to Mankind, in a public Capacity. To evidence this, which an honest Mind, and of a similar Frame, can't but make its Glory, one need but give the following Instances. When he looks back to his Ancestors, he can count among his near Relations, a Prelate, who supported that Dignity with as much Magnificence and Hospitality (not by his Bishoprick only, tho' one of the best in the Kingdom) as perhaps any Bishop in this Nation ever did. His great Grandfather maintained, at his proper Charge, a Troop of Horse, for King CHARLES in the Civil Wars, for which he was feized by Cromwell at Durham, and suffered an expensive Confinement; in which unhappy Times the Family lost and consumed a great Estate. The Clergy are obliged to another Relation, descended from the same worthy Gentleman, for the best System of Laws yet publish'd, relating to their

their Function, their Rights and Privileges. And there are others, more nearly allied to the Author by intended Benefits, who will further support that good Spirit of being Benefactors to the Public.

Now it is natural (at least to all ingenuous Minds) to infer, that an enterprizing Spirit, who by producing Vouchers, as Examples, either of hereditary Worth, or as Incitements to personal Imitation, whereby he seems to give Security to the Public, of an honest Ambition, and ingenuous Design, with a Sedulity of acquitting himself honourably of it, must regard himself as under the strictest Obligations of Honour, to make good his Engagements, so far as depends on him, in order to vindicate the Motive wherewith he was acted. As the Author therefore has promised the Public a very useful and much-wanted Undertaking, which, when furnish'd with proper Subsidies, he is ready to perform, and is now prepared to discharge in Part; and, in Consequence of that Propofal, has a further Design, for the Service of the Christian World; the Reader, 'tis believed, will be willing to absolve from Imputation, what has been alledged, by Way of Credentials, which are of that Sort, which no Man, in Prudence, should produce, who did not resolve to reinforce them by a Conduct and Actions suitable thereto.

I dare not presume, Sir, to think that You have done me the Honour to attend to this long Discourse, which particular Reasons induced me to protract. But may I, with all Submission, request Your Indulgence therein, and that the

Errors, or Defects of the Translator may be favourably overlook'd, for the Merits of the Author, to whom I would have made Atonement, and to yourself, by publishing the Original along with my unequal Translation, if I had been at Leisure for it, and did I not think it might be an Injury to a Gentleman, who has taken the Pains to collate the Manuscripts, and has made several very judicious Emendations of this valuable Author. May I at least be so happy, as not to have the principal End of this Address misunderstood ; which is to express my most grateful Sense of, and most humble Devotion to, their MAJESTIES most gracious Government, by whose Paternal Care and Affection for their People, and your Counsels and happy Administration, we enjoy that invaluable Blessing, our Native Privilege of writing in the Liberty and Spirit of *Englishmen*. And tho' this has encouraged me, in this ingenuous Presumption ; be pleased, Sir, not to interpret it, as proceeding from too little Deserénce to the Dignity of a Person of your Distinction, or from a Want of being duly sensible of the immense Distance betwixt a First Minister to the Greatest of Princes, and a private Divine of my Rank. I know I am now addressing to the greatest Statesman, as well as the best Judge of Men and Letters. But the same happy Principles of Liberty, so gloriously asserted and established by you, which have made you one of the most illustrious Subjects in *Europe*, as well as the Prince you serve with so much envied Honour, the most powerful and happy Monarch,

Monarch, breathe a Freedom and Spirit into the Addresses of the Muses, who, by a Sort of Title, always fly to the Protection of the Discerning Great, who never acquire more true and lasting Glory, than when it is emblazon'd with the Irradiations of Letters and the Congratulations of the Muses. Nor is it so much, in Regard to the Elevation of your Character and Function, as to those endearing Virtues of a Patriot and public Benefactor, those most amiable and exalted Titles, which your Administration has, by a long Experience, happily vindicated; and as you are an accurate Judge, as well as a Patron, and shining Example of all polite and useful Literature, that I presume to crave the Honour of laying these Sheets at your Feet; which, be pleased, Sir, to accept with that common Indulgence you give to all laudable, and especially literary Undertakings, and your Countenance will add Spirit to the Author's Labours; of which this was humbly intended to be an Introduction to your Notice.

*I am, with the most profound Respect,*

*S I R,*

*Your most Obedient,*

*and most Humble Servant,*

**John Mawer.**

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**T H E**



THE  
**L I F E**  
 Of *OPPIAN*,  
 F R O M  
*Athenæus, Eusebius and*  
*Suidas,*

For the most Part according to BODIN.



HE Writers of Oppian's Life affirm, that he was born at *Anazarbus*, a City of *Cilicia*, and that his Father's Name was *Ageſilaus*. When the Emperor *Severus* having quash'd *Pescennius Niger*, in the Flush of his Successes, made his triumphant Progress thro' *Cilicia*, all such as were most distinguished

tinguished for their V ealth, and the Lustre of their Rank and Birth, went out in Parade to receive, and welcome him, with their utmost Magnificence ; which, when *Ageſilaus* neglected, or more properly slighted, as a Person wrapt up in the pleasurable Receiptes of a Philosophical Life, who despised all Pageantry and vain Glory, and being a Man of an opulent Fortune, as well as of distinguish'd Learning, his Neglect was look'd upon as a Contempt of Majesty : Under which Character, his Effects were confiscated by the Emperor, and himſelf was ſent into Exile, to *Miletus*.

Hereupon *Oppian*, who from a Child had been brought up in a Courſe of Learning, and according to the best Methods of an ingenuous Education, having written his celebrated Poems of Hunting, Fishing and Fowling, goes to *Rome*, upon the Death of *Severus*, and presents his Books to *Antoninus* ſurnamed *Caracalla*, who was choſen Emperor, hoping thereby to find Means of retrieving his Father's Fortunes, and his own. The Prince, who had a great Soul, valued the Books ſo much, that he ordered *Oppian* to ask of him whatever he the moſt wished for. He begg'd that the Emperor would be pleased to recall his Father from Banishment ; and as that was his only Requeſt, he both eaſily obtained it, recovered his Father's Estate, and received as many Pieces of Gold, as he had written Verses ; which are ſumm'd up in *Fabricius*, to the Amount of many Thousands.

He wrote other Poems beſides theſe. But ſoon after he had gained the Character of a *dutiful Son*,

*Son*; he paid his last Debt to Nature, when he had hardly attained the Age of Thirty. When the News of his Death was brought to his Fellow-Citizens, they erected to him an honourary Statue, with an Inscription, which is thus rendered into English.

*Oppian, the Poets Glory, I had shone,  
When envious Fate, with cruel Hand, too soon  
Snatch'd me, a Youth, to Shades of Night profound;  
A Youth for Charms of Eloquence renown'd :  
Had not her Spight denied me Length of Days,  
The World my Equal had not seen, in Praise.*

BODIN's Inscription for OPPIAN's Statue.

*Since none may Fate's supreme Decrees reverse,  
Why tax the Gods for thy too blooming Herse ?  
For had not Fate suppress'd thy youthful Breath,  
So old in Honour, thou'dst not yield to Death.*



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F I N I S H